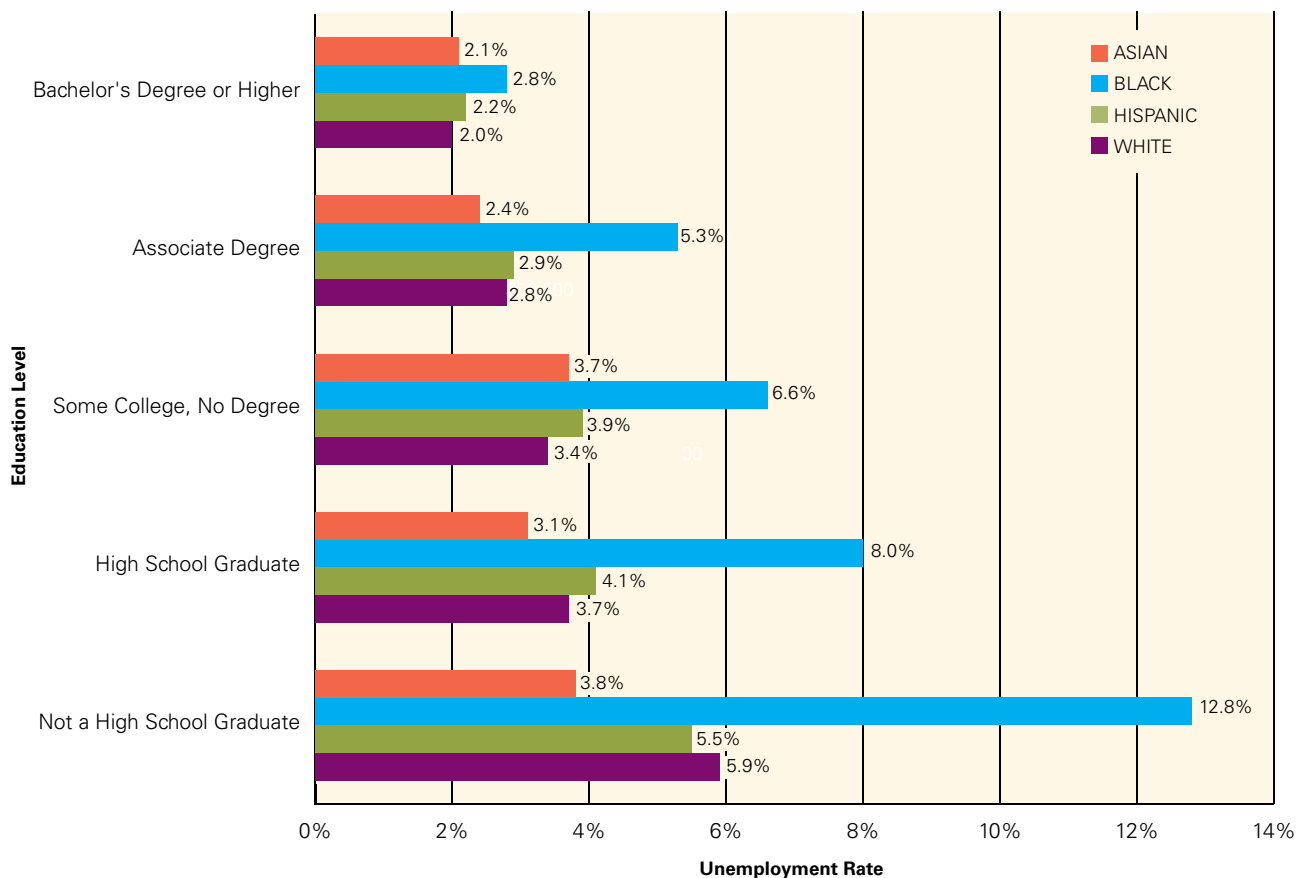


Unemployment

Figure 1.10: Unemployment Rates of Individuals Ages 25 and Older, by Race/Ethnicity and Education Level, 2006



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2007, Table 7 (based on U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey*).

Among all racial/ethnic groups, unemployment rates are much lower for college graduates than for high school graduates. The differences are significantly larger for blacks than for other groups.

- In 2006, the 2.8 percent unemployment rate for black four-year college graduates was about one-third of the 8.0 percent unemployment rate for black high school graduates.
- The weakest relationship between education level and unemployment rate was for Asians, among whom the 2.1 percent unemployment rate for individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher was two-thirds of the 3.1 percent unemployment rate for high school graduates.
- The gap between unemployment rates for blacks and whites is considerably smaller for college graduates than for other groups. The 2006 unemployment rate for black high school graduates was 2.2 times as high as that for white high school graduates. The unemployment rate for blacks with some college or an associate degree was 1.9 times as high as that for whites with similar levels of education, and the unemployment rate for black four-year college graduates was only 1.4 times as high as that for white four-year college graduates.
- The unemployment rate for blacks with a four-year college degree was higher than that for Asians with an associate degree, and as high as that for whites with an associate degree. The unemployment rate for blacks with some college but no degree was higher than the unemployment rates for Asians, Hispanics, and whites who did not complete high school.

Also important:

In addition to the obvious problems for the individuals and families directly affected, unemployment carries significant costs for society as a whole. Fewer goods and services are produced, tax revenues decline, access to health care is diminished, children enjoy fewer opportunities, and more people are in need of taxpayer support.